Dublin Education Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2024

Attendees Committee: Blake Anderson, Bill Gurney, Peter Imhoff, Blake Minckler, Carole Monroe, Jay Schechter

Other Attendees: May Clark, Karl Eckilson, Rick McMillan, Susan Peters, Tom Warren, John Wood

1. Minutes Approval – March 5, 2024 B Minckler moved as amended, B Anderson second, all in favor
2. Rick McMillan brought to the attention of the committee School Digger.com, a site that rates schools. B Gurney will follow up.
3. Quality Rankings during the COVID years may be questionable.
4. B Minckler suggested a phased approach to potential solutions.
5. The committee discussed the Town of Carrol’s Minority Report. We could learn from what was positive and what the report lacked. The financial divergence is greater than the Dublin situation.
6. Lionheart Charter School reports that all grades are fully enrolled for fall 2024 (325 students). The students come from over 20 towns.
7. J Schechter requested sub groups review the responsibility list to determine if and changes are needed.
8. B Minckler suggested the message from Town Meeting is a desire of the community to from an education perspective to be a part of a larger, entity, like ConVal.
9. A question “Is there a way to negotiate the Town payment amount? “. Not likely with the current Articles of Agreement in place.
10. The expansion of TIF Districts in ConVal town reduces the property valuation calculation in the apportionment formula. When the formula was created, TIF Districts were not an issue.
11. The Select Board should write a letter to the District and DOE to confirm the positive vote at Town Meeting.
12. Harrisville has a different school structure and is very much aware of the Dublin challenges. We will contact them to fully understand their model.
13. P Imhoff – We should consider first principals: 1) An elementary School persists in Dublin; 2) Dublin is not big enough to consider a Middle School or High School, and 3) Public Education.
14. Questions to consider and investigate:
    1. What is the % of “special needs’ costs in Dublin?
    2. RSA 195.26 – The original documents indicate a transition plan was incorporated.
    3. Can or will ConVal Middle or HS accommodate Dublin?
    4. Does the Select Board meet with the School Board for a discussion?
    5. Has the DEAC mission changed?
    6. We need a framework or alternates, SWOT.
    7. Is it possible to renegotiate the Articles of Agreement? They are close to 60 years old and times have changed for all towns. M Clark indicates representative from all towns should consider hammering out a new agreement.
    8. What is the relationship of towns in the District to each other? The impact of towns leaving the will have cascading effects across the District.
    9. The Committee needs an Atty.
15. SB should have a constructive conversation with the SB Advisory group.
16. Next meeting March 26, 5:30 PM Town Hall. C Monroe cannot make the meeting; we need a volunteer to take minutes.